

## **HB 1141 - In Opposition**

January 23, 2025

Chairman Warrey and House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee Members,

I strongly opposed HB 1141 and believe it has ramifications that are far wider reaching than some might realize.

This bill, as it is written, would disallow library workers from participating in their professional association, the North Dakota Library Association, where library staff members and librarians share new trends in librarianship and public service, discuss best practices in the industry, discover new ways to encourage the love of reading and learning, and support each other in a variety of ways. It is the chance for all library staff members, especially one-person library workers, to connect, learn, and come back to the library energized and excited about the services they provide to their community.

In addition, the North Dakota Library Association annual conference offers library staff members the opportunity to meet various library vendors, ask questions, find out about grant opportunities and so much more. To ban library staff members from this professional development opportunity simply because the Association speaks up in support of funding for libraries and for the freedom to read, does a huge disservice to all North Dakotans who deserve knowledgeable and enthusiastic library staff members.

HB 1141 is an unreasonable action against a non-existent problem and I respectfully ask that you oppose HB 1141.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wendy Wendt, Director  
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